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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

INFO RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 2817

RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 3621

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1521

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RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1194

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 097288

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [AMGT](#)

SUBJECT: MGH01: HURRICANE MONITORING GROUP SITUATION

REPORT NO. 08

IKE CATEGORY 1

11. (SBU) Category 1 Ike leaves heavy rains and flooding  
in Cuba:

-- Ike is likely to re-strengthen before making landfall  
September 13 along the Texas coast. (MG/National  
Hurricane Center telcon)

-- The storm has displaced approximately two million  
Cubans and Havana continues to experience heavy winds and  
rain. Power is out in the capital. Dams are reportedly  
at 95 percent capacity, and flooding is a major concern.  
(MG/USINT Havana telcon)

-- The Havana airport is closed until further notice.  
(MG/USINT Havana telcon)

MEXICAN SHIPS SEEKING SAFE HARBOR

12. (SBU) Between 100-150 Mexican fishing vessels have  
requested safe harbor at the Port of Brownsville. Embassy

Mexico City recommended to the government of Mexico that the vessels seek harbor in Mexico, south of the hurricane's path. ConGen Matamoros is standing up a weekend Task Force to coordinate communication. (Ops/Mexico desk e-mail)

HAITI

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13. (SBU) USS Kearsage, USAID continue disaster relief:

-- Two DART members remain in Gonaives to coordinate U.S. shipments from Port-au-Prince and to support the government's disaster relief efforts. OFDA is activating a Response Management Team in Washington September 11 to coordinate humanitarian response efforts. (Ops/USAID e-mail)

-- Damaged roads, blocked or collapsed bridges, and flooded rivers continue to hamper relief efforts within Gonaives. The hospital is now functioning following a fuel delivery. (Ops/USAID e-mail)

-- USS Kearsarge helicopters are scheduled to airlift approximately 85 metric tons of food and drinking water to Gonaives and Les Cayes. World Food Programme teams are loading two smaller vessels with additional food for affected areas. (Ops/USAID e-mail)

-- Catholic Relief Services has distributed emergency food assistance to roughly 20,000 people to date. (Ops/USAID e-mail)

TURKS & CAICOS

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14. (SBU) Damage assessments continue:

-- The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates 90 percent of roofs sustained damage. Grand Turk remains without water and electricity, and OCHA reports concerns about the public water supply. (Ops/Embassy Nassau e-mail)

-- The British ship HMS Iron Duke is currently in Grand Turk providing support. (Ops/Embassy Nassau e-mail)

15. (U) Minimize considered.

RICE